

SOUTH CAROLINA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION**STANDING HEARING OFFICER DIRECTIVE****DOCKET NO. [2019-362-A](#) ORDER NO. 2020-105-H****NOVEMBER 3, 2020**

C. Jo Anne Wessinger Hill
Standing Hearing Officer

DOCKET DESCRIPTION:

Rulemaking for the Public Service Commission to Create a New Regulation 103- 811.5 Role of the Qualified Independent Third-Party Consultant and Expert and the Commissioners' Reliance on the Contents of the Qualified Independent Third-Party Consultant and Expert's Report

MATTER UNDER CONSIDERATION:

By letter dated October 30, 2020, the attorney for South Carolina Coastal Conservation League ("CCL") and the Southern Alliance for Clean Energy ("SACE"), Katherine Lee, requests to be excused from participating in the virtual hearing scheduled in this proceeding. CCL and SACE "submitted comments on February 13, 2020 stating that the Commission reasonably interpreted and applied Act 62 as to the role of the independent, qualified expert in the recent avoided cost proceedings."¹ CCL and SACE did not file any additional comments in this proceeding and does not intend to provide any comments at the hearing.¹

Additionally by separate letter from attorney Richard Whitt for the South Carolina Solar Business Alliance, Inc. ("SCSBA"), SCSBA requests to be excused from appearing at the scheduled November 4, 2020 virtual hearing before the Commission as they have already submitted comments in writing, as well as appeared and presented during oral argument.²

STANDING HEARING OFFICER ACTION:

Each of these parties of record, CCL, SACE and SCSBA, have already filed written comments which are incorporated in the record. Each party has advised as part of its request that the Commission's "language in Proposed Regulation 103-811.5 noticed on August 14, 2020"¹ "reflects a reasonable approach."²

As Hearing Officer in this matter, I hold that each request of the aforementioned parties is granted and that the respective counselors for CCL/SACE and SCSBA are excused from the November 4, 2020 Virtual Hearing is granted. This Order shall remain in full force and effect until further Order of the Commission.

¹ October 30, 2020 letter from CCL and SACE attorney Katherine Lee.

² November 2, 2020 letter from SCSBA attorney Richard L. Whitt.